

BRADWELL PARISH COUNCIL

26th November, 2019

A Meeting of the Amenities & Highways Committee at 7.30p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Comer (Chairman), Goodchild, Macdonald, Shaw, Steggles, Watson (minutes 12-14 only) and Wells.

IN ATTENDANCE: J Caborn, Parish Clerk, S French, Deputy Clerk; Parish Councillors Hale and Hamilton; Mr J Hirst

- 1 **APOLOGIES** – Councillors Carrier and Thurtle. Councillor Watson apologised for her late arrival.
- 2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** – Councillor Comer declared a personal interest in item 5 – Green Lane Playing Field site entrance - request to install a barrier.
- 3 **MINUTES OF MEETING – 1.10.19 - MATTERS ARISING – AND 5.11.19**

It was **resolved that the minutes of 5.11.19 be signed as a true copy.**

Matters Arising – 1.10.19 minute 6 - Celt Rangers FC – installation of sign. This matter is in hand.

- 4 **SUSPENSION OF MEETING** – no members of the public were present.
- 5 **REQUEST TO ERECT A LOCKABLE BARRIER TO GREEN LANE PLAYING FIELD SITE ENTRANCE, FOLLOWING EPISODES OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Further to complaints of on-going episodes of anti-social behaviour within the car park area late at night, and previously declined requests for a barrier to be installed at the entrance of Green Lane Playing Field, a letter was circulated from Borough Councillor Hacon, setting out the nature of the complaint in more detail on behalf of local resident, Mrs Wardrop of 15 Mulberry Grove, who has apparently made 46 calls to the Police about the problem. No contact has been made by the Police with this Parish Council about these incidents, despite a request to them to let the Clerk know of any incidents that occur at this site.

It was noted that a meeting had taken place between Mrs Wardrop and two Borough Councillors, who did not notify this council that such a meeting was to take place. Similar requests for such a barrier have, in the past, always been declined on the grounds that it is not possible for the Parish Council to arrange for such a barrier to be raised seven days a week in the early mornings and lowered seven days a week later in the day. Furthermore, consultation would have to take place with users, both formal and informal, as to when use of the site is required, and there is a danger that vehicles may be 'locked in' for the night if they have not been removed by 'closing time'. Borough Councillor Hacon's letter states that 'Mrs Wardrop and a neighbour are willing to lock the barriers if the caretaker or last to leave doesn't want the responsibility', but such an arrangement appears unlikely to be acceptable under the terms of the council's public liability insurance.

An objection was made by a committee member to the paragraph in Borough Councillor Hacon's letter in which criticism was made of a Parish Council decision to spend money in respect of another project.

The Council now has an upgraded CCTV system which enables number plate recognition in certain circumstances, and it has been suggested that there is the potential for Police to connect to this system via smart phones, although no attempts have been made by them to follow this up. It was **resolved to decline the request for a barrier on the grounds that it is impracticable for this Parish Council to make the suggested arrangements, and that there is also potential for vehicle parking complications.**

- 6 **PROPOSAL THAT A LINK TO THE COUNCIL'S CCTV SYSTEM COULD BE PROVIDED TO NORFOLK CONSTABULARY VIA POLICE SMART PHONES**

Following a suggestion about linking the CCTV to the Police, made to this committee on 1.10.19, the Clerk circulated a response from BSA Security & Fire, who installed the current system, stating that such a facility would be feasible, would not compromise the council's use of the facility in any way, and would cost £160 +

VAT. It was resolved that a letter should be sent to a senior Police Officer to find out whether the Police would be prepared to pay the £160 for the necessary adjustment to the system, and that the Clerk will contact Beccles Town Council, which evidently has such a facility already, as to whether it has been found to be beneficial.

7 **'GARDEN GUARDIAN' GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTOR – ADDITIONAL WORK CARRIED OUT TO FOOTBALL PITCH AREA, OCTOBER 2019**

Further to work carried out to the football pitch following damage caused by 'chafer grubs' or 'leather-jackets', it was noted at the Parish Council meeting on 29.10.19 that an invoice from Garden Guardian had included an additional charge of £394.00 + VAT 'to repair area on the football pitch due to chafer grub and crow damage, to remove the dead grass from the areas and remove from site, to top dress with top soil, to supply and re-seed all areas, to supply 1 ton of top soil and 1 bag of grass seed per visit – completed on 9.9.19 £197.00 + VAT, completed on 27.9.19 £197.00 + VAT.' Mr Rice was asked to carry out this work but he did not indicate that additional charges would need to be applied, or what such costs would be.

A further charge of £197.00 was included in the next monthly invoice, for similar work carried out on 25.10.19, which had not been authorised by the Clerk. Mr Rice has responded with an apology, and explanation that the works needed to be completed in time before the weather turned colder, and aware that the pitch needed to be ready for use. It was suggested that he has also shown a fair attitude in offering to allow this payment to be deleted from the invoice, and he has not charged for the extra grass cutting the previous week. As the work has been completed satisfactorily, and the infestation problem surmounted by the three visits, it was resolved to pay the further additional charge of £197.00 + VAT on this occasion, and to state that in future Mr Rice must communicate beforehand with the Clerk about any proposed work outside the contract.

8 **PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETING, 'GIPSIES GREEN COMMON LAND'**

Further to the proposal to charge for residents' use of the above land for vehicle parking, and the draft communication to the residents, it was noted that there is already a large pothole of water on the site. It was resolved to defer a decision about when to hold a public meeting, and whether to make any changes to the wording of the draft communication, until the New Year.

9 **POSSIBLE PROVISION OF 'SAM2' (FLASHING SPEED LIMIT SIGNS)**

It was reported at the 29.10.19 Parish Council meeting that any bid made for 50/50 funding for the above must be made by 6.12.19. If the bid is approved, this council's share of the cost would be met from the Council's 2020-21 budget. The Finance & General Purposes Committee therefore included a budget allocation for the item of £1,750 at its meeting on 5.11.19. A single unit can be purchased for £2,800 (£1,400 to this council if 50/50 funded), and optional extras are available. It was resolved to include within the bid provision of two spare brackets (£50 each), and supply and installation of two straight posts - the bracket is the part to be installed to the post for the sign to hook on to, and it includes two stainless steel fixing bands. It was also resolved that the unit should be moved periodically, preferably by two people, one of whom could be the Caretaker, to locations such as Green Lane, Mill Lane, Burgh Road (Bradwell section) and Mallard Way.

10 **WAR MEMORIAL SITE AND OPEN SPACE AREA, CHURCH WALK**

Application to nplaw for advice about the possibility of a 99-year lease at peppercorn rent between this and the Borough Council, has been made and is in hand. It was noted that the area in question contains a substantial number of trees, and a footpath, maintenance of which would become the responsibility of this Council should a lease be accepted.

11 **SNOW AND ICE RISK ASSESSMENT POLICY – TO REVIEW WHETHER IT SHOULD BE AMENDED**

It was agreed that no changes should be made to the above policy.

12 **USE OF BRADWELL'S 106 MONIES – REPORT FROM WORKING PARTY**

Further to an e-mail message from Councillor Carrier, who is currently unwell, all printing has been completed, and distribution to schools, clubs, etc. will commence very soon. A list of ideas has already been sent to Louise Tully at Great Yarmouth Borough Council, and it was noted that a number of people are involved in this project. Some ideas include a bicycle path, footpath to the Scout Hut and wildlife signage at the Generation Wood site.

13 **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk read out an e-mail from Great Yarmouth Borough Council regarding polling station facilities for the impending General Election, and whether Leo Coles Pavilion has an on-site grit box, whether the grit will be administered by the Parish Council, and if there is outside lighting. The Clerk will respond in the negative respecting a grit box, and confirm the existence of good outside lighting.

14 **COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS**

A query was raised about whether a quotation had been sought for the removal of some apparently dead trees on Green Lane Playing Field. This will be put in hand.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Signed: Date :